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Recommended Citation

"Academic Bracket Busters" (2014). *News Releases*. 2894.
https://ecommons.udayton.edu/news_rls/2894

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Academic Bracket Busters

03.23.2014 | Students, Athletics

What if academics determined the NCAA Division I Basketball Championship winners?

National online higher education publication Inside Higher Ed says the Dayton Flyers women's basketball team would reach the Final Four, while the men's team would reach the Sweet 16, losing to the eventual national champions, Kansas.

Here's how Inside Higher Ed determined the Flyers are among the best academically in this year's NCAA Division I basketball tournament fields: "To determine the winners, we look to the Academic Progress Rate, (url: [http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/new media/public/rates/index.html](http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/new%20media/public/rates/index.html)) the NCAA's multiyear measure of a team's classroom performance (in this case, from to 2008-12). When two teams tie, as they inevitably do, we turn to the NCAA's Graduation Success Rate, which measures the proportion of athletes on track to graduate within six years. In the event of a GSR tie, our final determinant is the Federal Graduation Rate, a slightly different formula that the government uses to track graduation rates."

On the court, the Flyers advanced to the school's first Sweet 16 appearance in 30 years by beating Syracuse in the third round in Buffalo. It will face Stanford, which upset Kansas in the second round, in a regional semifinal Thursday in Memphis. In the NCAA Div. I Women's Basketball Championship, Dayton fell to Florida 83-69 in the first round in University Park, Pa.

For the latest information on both men's and women's basketball, visit the Dayton Flyers website. Closer to home, the University of Dayton was the start of the Road to the Final Four for the 14th year.

For more information, contact Shawn Robinson, associate director of media relations, at 937-229-3391 or srobinson@udayton.edu.